

THE TRVE REPORT
of the burhyng of the Steple
and Church of Poules *2*
in London. *14.*

¶ Jeremy. xiii. v. 7, 8.

I wyll speake suddenly agaynst a nation,
or agaynst a kyngebome, to plucke
it vp, and to roote it out, and distrope
it. But yf that nation, agaynst
whome I haue pronounced, turne
from their wickednes, I wyll re-
pent of the plague that I thought
to bynge vppon
them.

¶
Imprynted at London, at
the west ende of Paules Church,
at the sygne of the Bedghogge
by Wyllyam
Seres.


*Cum privilegio ad imprimendum
solum.*

Anno. 1561. The x. of Iune.

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**The true reporte of the
burninge of the Steple and
Church of Paules in London.**

 **O** Wednesday beinge
the fourthe daye of
June, in the yeare of
our Lord. 1561. and in
the thyrde yeare of the reigne of
our soueraygne Ladye Elizabeth
by the grace of God, Queene of
Englande, Fraunce and Ireland
Defender of the faith. &c. betweene
one and two of the clocke at after
Noone, was seene a maruetous
great fyrie lightning, and imme-
diately insued a most terrible hy-
deous cracke of thunder, suche as
seldom hath been heard, and that
by estimacion of sense, directlpe o-
uer the Citie of London. At which
instante the corner of a turrett of
steple of saint Martins Church
within Ludgate was torne, and

A. ii.

diuers

The true report of the
diuers great stones casten down,
and a hole broken throughte the
roofe & timber of the said church,
by the fall of the same stones.

For diuers persones in tyme
of the saide tempest being on the
riuer of Chamys, and others be-
yng in the fieldes nere adioyning
to y^e Citie, affirmed that thei saw
a long and a speare pointed flame
of fier (as it were) runne through
the toppe of the Broche or Shaft
of Paules Steple, from the Caste
Westwarde. And some of the pa-
rish of saint Martins then being
in the streete, dyd feele a maruey-
lous strong ayre or whorlewynnd,
with a smel lyke Brimstone, com-
ming from Paules Church, and
withal heard the rushe of y^e stones
which fell frō their steple into the
churche. Betwenz. iiii. and fyue of
the

the clocke a smoke was espied by
 diuers to breake oute vnder the
 bowle of the said shaf. of Danles,
 & namely by Peter Johnson prin-
 cipall Register to the Bilshop of
 Londo, who immediatly brought
 worde to the Bilshops house. But
 sodeinly after, as it wer in a mo-
 mente, the flame brake furth in a
 circle like a garlande rounde a-
 bout the bzoche, about two pards
 to thestimacion of sight vnder the
 bowle of the said shaf, & increased
 in suche wise, that within a quar-
 ter of an houre, oz litle more, the
 crosse & the Egle on the toppe fell
 Downe vpon the south crosse Ile.
 The Lord Maior being sent for, &
 his brethren, came with all speede
 possible, & had a short consultaciō
 as in such a case might be, with the
 Bilshop of London and others, for

The true report of the

þ best way of remedy. And thither came also þ Lord keeper of þ great Seale, & the Lord Treasurer, who by their wisdom and authoritie dyrected as good order, as in so great a confusio could possible be.

Some there wer, pretēding experience in warres, that couceled the remanente of the steple to bee shot down with Canons, whiche counsel was not liked, as most perillous both for the dispersing the fire, and destructio of houses and people, other perceiuing the steple to be past al reconery, considering the hugenes of the fier, & the dropping of the lead, thought beste to geat ladders & scale the churche, & with axes to hew down a space of the rooffe of the Church, to stay the fier, at the leaste to saue some part of the laide churche, whiche was

was concluded. But before þe ladders & buckets could be brought, & things put in any order, and especially because the church was of such height, that they could not scale it, & no sufficient number of axes could be had, þe laborers also being troubled with þe multitude of ydle gasers, the moste parte of the higheste roofe of the Church was on fier.

Fyrst the fall of the Crosse and Egle fired the southe crosse Ile, whiche Ile was firste consumed, the beames & brands of the steple fell down on euery side, & fired the other thre partes, that is to saye, the Chauncel or Quier, the north Ile, & the body of the church. So that in one howres space þe broch of the steple was brent downe to þe battlementes, & the most part of þe

A.iii.

highest

The true report of the
highest rooffe of the church, likes
wise consumed. The state of the
steeple & church seming both des-
perate: my Lord Mayor was ad-
vised by one maister Winter of
admiraltie, to conuerte the mooste
part of his care & prouisiō to pres-
serue the Bishops palace adioyn-
nyng to the Northwest end of the
church: least fro that house beinge
large, the fier might sprede to the
stretes adioyning. Whereupon the
ladders, buckets, & laborers, were
commaunded thither, & by greate
labor & diligence, a piece of y^e rooffe
of the North Ile was cut down,
& the fier so stayed, and by muche
water, that parte quenched, and y^e
said Bishops house preserued. It
pleased god also at the same tyme
bothe to turne & calme the winde,
which afore was behemet, & con-
tinued

Burning of Poules.

linned stil high & greate in other partes without y^e citie. There wer aboue .v. C. persons y^e laboured in carping & fillig water &c. Diuers substantial Citizens toke paynes as if thei had bene labozers, so did also diuers & sondrye gentlemen, whose names wer not known to the writer hereof, but amongst other, the said M. Winter, & one. M. Stranguish, did both take notable paines in their own persons, & also much directed & encouraged other, and that not without great daunger to theselues. In y^e euening came the Lord Clinton, Lord admiral fro y^e court at Grenewiche, whō the Queenes maiesty assone as the rage of the fier was espied by her maiestye and others in the court, of the pitifull inclinacion & loue that her gracions highnesse
Dyd

dyd beare both to y^e said church &
 the citie, sente to assyst my Lorde
 Mayor for the suppressyng of the
 fyre, who with his wysdome, au-
 thority & diligēt trauayl did very
 much good therin. About .x. of the
 clocke the fyrcenes of the fyre
 was past, the tymbre being fallen
 and lying brenninge vpon the
 baultes of stone, the baultes yet
 god be thanked standyng vnpe-
 rished: so as ouer the tymbre of
 the hole church was consumed, &
 the lead molten, sayng the most
 parte of the two lowe fyles of the
 Queare, and a piece of the north
 fyle, and an other smal piece of y^e
 southe fyle, in the bodye of the
 churche. Notwithstandyng all
 which, it pleased the merciful god
 in his wrath to remēbre his mer-
 cie, and to enclose the harme of
 this

burning of Pauls.

this most fyerce and terrible fyre,
wythin the walles of thys one
church, not extending any part of
his wrath in this fyre vppon the
rest of the Citie, whiche to all rea-
son and sence of man was subiect
to vtter destruction. For in
the hole city without the churche
no stycke was kyndled surelye.
Notwithstanding that in diuerse
partes, & stretes, and within the
houses bothe adioyninge and of a
good distaunce, as in fletestrete, &
newgate market, by the violence
of fyre, burninge coles of greate
bignesse, fell downe almoost as
thicke as haylstones, and flawes
of lead were blowne abrode into
the garding without the Citie, like
flawes of snow in bredthe wounte
hurr, god be thanked, to any house
or pevle. Many fond talkes goe as
brode

The true report of the
brode of the original cause of this
fier. Some say, it was negligence
of plumbers, whereas by due
examination it is proued that no
plumbers or other workemen la-
bozed in the churche for sixe mo-
nethes before. Other suspect it
was done by som wicked practise
of wildfyer or gunpowder, but no
iust suspicious therof by any exa-
mination can be founde hitherto.
Some suspect coniuers & sorce-
rers, wherof there is also no great
likelyhodz. And if it hadde bene
wrought & waie, yet could not the
Deuill haue done it, without Gods
permissiō, & so som purpose of his
vnsercheable iudgemēts, as appe-
reth in the story of Job. The true
cause as it seemeth, was the tēpest
by gods sufferance: for it cannot be
otherwise gathered, but that at &
said great & terrible thunderclap,

burning of Bowles.

When sainte Martins steple was
torne, the lightning which by na-
tural order smiteth y^e highest, did
first smite y^e top of Bowles steple,
and entring in at the small holes
which haue alwaies remained o-
pen for building skaffoldes to the
works, & finding the timber very
olde & drie, did kindle y^e same, & so
y^e fier increasing grew to a flame
& wrought y^e effecte which folow-
ed, most terrible then to behold, &
now most lamentable to looke on.

On Sonday folowyng beyng
the viii. day of June, the reuerend
in god, the Bishop of Duresme, at
Bowles crosse made a learned &
fruitful sermon, exhorting the au-
ditoz to a general repentance, &
namely to humble obediēce of the
lawes & superioz powers, whiche
vertue is muche decayed in these
our daies: seming to haue intellp:

The true report of the
gēce from the Queenes highnes
that her maiestie intendeth tha
more seueritie of lawes shalbe ex
ecuted against persons disobedy
ent, as well in causes of religiō, as
ciuil, to the great reioysing of his
auditours. He exhorted also hy
audiēce to take this as a generall
warninge to the whole realme, &
namelye to the citie of London, of
some greater plague to follow, if a
mendmente of lyfe in all states
did not ensue: He muche reprovēd
those persons whiche woulde as
signe the cause of this wzathe of
god to any perticular state of mā,
oz that were diligent to loke into
other mens lyues, & coulde see no
faultes in themselves: but wished
that euery man wold descend in
to himselfe and say with Dauid
Ego sum qui peccavi. I am he that hath
sinned, and so furth to that effect

burning of Poules.

betwixt godlye. He also not onely re-
proued the pꝛophanatyon of the
said Church of Poules of longe
time hertofore abused by walkig,
dangling, bꝛawling, fighting, bar-
gaining. &c. namely in Sermons
& seruice time: but also answered
by the way to the obiections of such
euil tynge persons, which do im-
pute this token of gods deserved
tre, to alteraciō, oz rather reforma-
ciō of religiō, declaring out of aunc-
ient recoꝝds & histories, þ̄ like, yea
& greater matters had befallen in
þ̄ time of supersticiō & ignozance.
For in þ̄ first yere of king Stephā
not only þ̄ said church of Poules
was bzēt, but also a great part of
þ̄ city, þ̄ is to say, frō Londō bridge
vnto S. Clemēts without Tēple
bar, was by fier cōsumed. And in
þ̄ daies of king Hēry þ̄. vi. þ̄ steple
of Poules was also fired by lightes

The true report of the
ning, although it was then staide
by diligēce of þe Citizens, þe fier be-
ing the by likelphode not so fierce.
Many other suche like cōmon cal-
lamities he reherſed, whiche had
happened in other cōntreis, both
nigh to this realm & far of, where
þe church of Rome hath most auct-
hority, & therefore cōcluded þe ſu-
reſt way to be, þe euery man ſhould
iudge, examin, & amēd himſelfe, &
embrace, beleue, and truely folow
þe word of god, & earnestly to pray
to god to turn a way frō vs his de-
ſerued wzath & indignaciō, where-
of this his terrible work is a moſt
certein warning, if we repent not
vneſeinedly. The whiche god grāt
maye come to paſſe in all eſtates
& degrees, to þe glory of his name
and to oure endelesſe comforte in
Chriſt our ſauionr. Amen.

God ſaue the Queene.

14 MAY 64

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